Subgingival sampling

Supragingival plaque should be removed with cotton pellets or periodontal scalers to secure noncontaminated subgingival specimens. Blood and pus at the orifice of periodontal pockets should be removed by cotton pellets or a cotton roll prior to sampling. During sampling, the sample sites should be isolated by cotton rolls. Sterile absorbent paper points, provided in the OMTL KIT are to be used for subgingival sampling.

For single pocket samples:
Three paper points should be inserted to the depth of the periodontal pocket and kept there for 10 seconds. The paper points should be placed in a glass vial, which contains the transport medium.

For pooled samples:
From each of the 3 deep pockets selected for examination, one paper point should be inserted, kept in place for 10 seconds and placed in the glass vial. No more than three paper points should be combined in each vial. Periodontal scalers or syringes may also be used for subgingival sampling although paper points are recommended.

Glass vials for culture:
Most periodontal pathogens are highly sensitive to oxygen; therefore, microbiology sampling must take place with minimal exposure to air.

After sampling, paper points should be immediately transferred to the anaerobic medium in the transport vials. The screw cap from the vial should be removed only during actual placement of the paper point into the vial. A slightly blue coloring of the surface of the anaerobic medium after placement will not compromise the bacteriological analysis. Do not keep the cap off of the vial for more than fifteen to twenty seconds; firmly tighten the caps onto the vials. Do not shake the vials after placement of the paper points as this could introduce oxygen into the media.

* The anaerobic transport medium contained in the small glass vials is clear, when free of oxygen, and is ready for use. If the transport medium exhibits a blue color extending beyond the surface layer, it has become oxygenated and should not be used. Also do not use any transport medium that has become cloudy and is no longer clear.